

CONFIDENTIAL

28 October 1982

*would you
Provide the requested
data as soon as
possible.*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, COMIREX

SUBJECT: Request for New Soviet Science and Technology Enigmas

1. The Soviet S&T Enigmas Working Group has been re-established by the Scientific and Technical Intelligence Committee (STIC) under the direction of the DCI. The purpose of this group is to identify and highlight significant science and technology enigmas in the Soviet Union which if not studied could lead to technological surprise.

2. For the purpose of this Working Group, enigma is defined

Generally, an enigma is defined as something that is hard to understand or explain. For the purposes of this report, two generic types of enigma were considered: first, S&T activities or information, including developments related to some weapon systems and some nuclear activities, which are unexplained; and, second, the absence of a development, program, or facility where one would logically be expected (negative enigma). In regard to the first type, an enigma is distinguished from an intelligence question by whether or not the purpose of a development or activity is known. If the purpose is unknown, it is an enigma; if it is known but the details are missing, it is an intelligence question (for example, unknown parameters of a new ICBM).

3. This notice requests your continuing support for fulfilling our charter obligations. ~~Our initial request is to obtain a list of enigmas from your office for review.~~ The working Group will refine the list and seek additional input. The inputs will contribute to a briefing in January for the President's Science and Technology Policy Advisor. The end product will be a community-wide publication on current and viable enigmas.

--Format: a list of enigmas with a brief description for each

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--Due Date: 12 November 1982

--Send responses to appropriate working member:

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4. Your immediate and continued cooperation in support of this important task is appreciated. Increased visibility of enigmas is hoped to stimulate collection and analysis in those areas.

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Chairman, STIC/Enigmas
Working Group